[14th March 1955

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, may I know whether the investigation has been completed in connexion with the formation of the road and whether the estimates have been prepared. May I also know the estimated cost of the work? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The investigation of the work has been completed and the Chief Engineer has submitted a detailed estimate for Rs. 14·74 lakhs. Since then we have received information from the Government of India that, as this is a work to be done in a backward area, they are giving full grant for it and the estimate has been submitted to the Government of India for sanction."

Watchmen in Civil Supplies godowns.

* 1333 *Q.*—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of watchmen employed in the godowns of the Civil Supplies Department in the City;

(*b*) how many of them are Gurkhas; and

(*c*) whether there is any disparity in salary paid to Gurkhas and Tamilians?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There are 36 watchmen employed for watch and ward work in the Civil Supplies godowns in the Madras City.

" (*b*) All the thirty-six watchmen are Gurkhas.

" (*c*) Until recently there were both Gurkha and ordinary watchmen in the Civil Supplies godowns in the Madras City. The Gurkha watchmen are paid a salary of Rs. 30 per mensem plus a dearness allowance of Rs. 19 and a city allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem. The ordinary watchmen, while they were employed were paid a consolidated pay of Rs. 30 per mensem including dearness allowance provided the market rate was not less than Rs. 30 and if the market rate was less than Rs. 30 then the pay of the ordinary watchmen was being limited to the market rate."

* 1334 *Q.*—Postponed to 15th March 1955.

Overload in buses.

* 1335 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a petition from one of the workers of Sri Rama Vilas Bus Service, Kumbakonam, Tanjore district, regarding overload in buses that plied between Kumbakonam and Swamimalai in connexion with Karthikaideepam festival, during December 1954;

(*b*) whether any enquiry was conducted; and

(*c*) if so, the result of the enquiry?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) & (c) Do not arise."

Lignite Mines, Neyveli.

* 1336 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the State Government have received any report from the Central Government with regard to the working of the Lignite Mines at Neyveli;

(b) if so, (1) how much capital is necessary for its working; (2) the share of the Central Government towards the capital; (3) whether any contracts are proposed to be given to any private company; and (4) if so, to which company?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Consulting Engineers have proposed four alternative sets of integrated schemes for utilizing an annual output of lignite ranging from 1,070,000 tons to 6,268,000 tons estimated to cost from about Rs. 29 crores to about Rs. 85 crores. Pending further investigation on the nature of the lignite seam and ground water conditions, no decision has been arrived at on the particular scheme to be taken up. An integrated scheme will be drawn up after the results of the further investigations become available. The other points mentioned in the question do not arise now."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" நெய்வேலி பழுப்பு நிலக்கரித் திட்டத்தை நிறைவேற்றும்போது சர்க்கார் இரண்டு விதமான முறைகளைக் கையாளலாம். ஒன்று, அதிகப்படியான ஷேர்களை சர்க்கார் வைத்துக் கொண்டு பாக்கி ஷேர்களை உள்நாட்டிலிருக்கக்கூடிய சாதாரண முதலாளிகளுக்குக் கொடுத்து சர்க்காரே நடத்தமுடியும். அல்லது இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலுள்ள ஜனங்களிடமிருந்து குறைவான வட்டிக்கும் பணத்தை வாங்கி சர்க்காரே அந்தத் தொழிலை நடத்தலாம். இவ்விரண்டில் ஏதாவது ஒரு முறையை அனுஷ்டிப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசனை செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொல்லக்கூடிய யோசனைகளையெல்லாம் ஆராய்ந்த பின்னர் சர்க்கார் முடிவு செய்யும். "

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Now that the working of the lignite mines has been entrusted to the Central Government, may I know in future to what extent this Government will be responsible to this House in answering such questions and to what extent the Central Government will be responsible to the Parliament? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member is quite well aware that even to-day I am answering such questions on behalf of the Government of Madras and, therefore, he need not have any worry about it."